

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 7, 10 and 13, as set forth in the listing of claims that follows, which will replace all prior versions and listings, of claims in the application:

1. – 6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) A pyromechanical securing element for mechanical connection of two components, said securing element comprising:

a generally cylindrical covering, including an expandable head part;
a pyrotechnic propellant charge disposed within said head part, which

borders on an adapter; and

a stop means disposed on a rear part of the covering distal said head part for registering with concentric through passages in adjacent first and second components to be interconnected, wherein the covering, at its head part, has frangible break notches running in longitudinal direction operable to tear open the covering in the head region upon ignition of the propellant charge to bend separated head part portions around the adapter, as a result of which the first component is firmly connected to the second component, wherein

- the adapter defines a groove extending about the outer periphery thereof,
- the covering defines a at least three radially projecting collar portions arranged on the outer surface of the covering, said collar defining said stop means and radially projecting collar portions arranged on an inner surface of the covering projecting into the adapter groove to anchor the covering with the adapter, and
~~the groove in the adapter is aligned with the collar of the covering, and~~
~~at least one part of the collar is pressed into the groove to anchor the covering with the adapter and~~

- the radially projecting collar portions arranged on the outer surface are axially aligned and circumferentially alternating with the radially projecting collar portions arranged on the inner surface.
- ~~— wherein the outer surface of the covering has an at least 3 surface shape after pressing in.~~

8. (Previously Amended) The securing element of claim 7, wherein the groove extends circumferentially about the adapter and the collar extends circumferentially about the covering.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) The securing element of claim 7, wherein the covering has a square shape with ~~preferably~~ beveled corners ~~after pressing in.~~

11. (Previously Submitted) The securing element of claim 7, wherein the covering is formed from metal.

12. (Previously Submitted) The securing element of claim 7, wherein the adapter is substantially cylindrical.

13. (Currently Amended) A pyromechanical securing element for mechanical interconnection of two components, said securing element comprising:

a generally cylindrical covering which is substantially closed at one end thereof to define an expandable head portion;

a generally cylindrical adapter ~~slidably~~ disposed within said covering, said adapter defining first and second axially spaced large diameter portions and an intermediate reduced diameter portion; and

a pyrotechnic propellant charge disposed in said head portion intermediate said closed end and said adapter,

wherein said covering defines ~~a radially thickened collar portion~~ radially projecting collar portions arranged on the outer surface of the covering and radially projecting collar portions arranged on an inner surface of the covering projecting inwardly toward which is axially aligned with the reduced diameter portion of said adapter and is locally displaced radially inwardly to effect fixed engagement therebetween, and

wherein said ~~thickened collar portion~~ defines a plurality of circumferentially arranged radially outwardly extending flats on the outer surface thereof defining axial flat radially projecting collar portions arranged on the outer surface include a plurality of flat surfaces, and the radially projecting collar portions arranged on the outer surface are axially aligned and circumferentially alternating with the radially projecting collar portions on the inner surface.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously Submitted) The securing element according to claim 13, further comprising notches formed in said head part to effect predetermined expansion thereof upon combustion of said propellant charge.

16. (Previously Amended) The securing element according to claim 13, further comprising an axial spacing intermediate said adapter and said propellant charge.